

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 EB-08 /094 W

-----068111 040048Z /64

R 031902Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6513

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

UNCLAS LA PAZ 6078

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, BL

SUBJ: BANZER'S VISIT TO PANAMA AND VENEZUELA HAILED AS

"NEW LANDMARK" IN FOREIGN POLICY

REF LA PAZ 5924

1. LOCAL PRESS HAS GIVEN AMPLE AND HIGHLY FAVORABLE COVERAGE TO RECENT VISIT BY BANZER TO PANAMA AND VENEZUELA, CITING IT AS A "NEW LANDMARK" IN BOLIVIAN FOREIGN POLICY. IN PARTICULAR, PRESS COMMENTARY HAS PRAISED BANZER FOR AND INDIRECTLY CREDITED HIM WITH REAFFIRMATION BY BOTH COUNTRIES OF SUPPORT FOR RESTORATION OF BOLIVIA'S ACCESS TO THE SEA AS STATED IN JOINT DECLARATIONS MADE IN BOTH COUNTRIES. THE DECLARATION OF PUERTO CABELLO SPECIFICALLY CITED BOLIVIAN PROPOSAL OF DECEMBER 1976, MAJOR FEATURE OF WHICH WAS CALL FOR TRIPARTITE EFFORT TO CREATE "POLE OF DEVELOPMENT" IN SOUTH PACIFIC AREA. MUCH PLAY GIVEN TO SLOGAN ADOPTED BY PANAMANIAN QUOTE A BOLIVIA SU MAR, A PANAMA SU CANAL UNQUOTE AND POLITICAL PRONOUNCEMENTS MADE DURING VISIT, BUT PRESS UNCLASSIFIED

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HAS ALSO FOCUSED ON CONCRETE RESULTS OF PRESIDENTIAL CONVERSATIONS, SUCH AS TORRIJO'S PROMISE OF SPECIAL PRIVILEGES TO ASSIST BOLIVIA IN DEVELOPING COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS IN FREE ZONE OF COLON, AND VENEZUELAN GIFT OF MERCHANT MARINE VESSEL, COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, OFFER OF LINE OF CREDIT TO FINANCE VENEZUELAN IMPORTS AND AIR SERVICES AGREEMENTS.

2. EMBASSY COMMENT. DOMESTICALLY, BANZER HAS SCORED ANOTHER POLITICAL SUCCESS WITH VISIT TO PANAMA AND VENEZUELA. REAFFIRMATION OF THESE COUNTRIES' SUPPORT FOR BOLIVIA'S QUEST FOR THE SEA HAVE BOLSTERED HIS PUBLIC IMAGE AT HOME, AS HAVE HIS STATEMENTS REGARDING THE RETURN TO A CONSTITUTIONAL FORM OF GOVERNMENT IN 1980 AND BOLIVIA'S SUPPORT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. PRESS REPORTS STATE PLANS NOW BEING MADE FOR BANZER VISIT WITH BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT GEISEL IN LATTER PART OF AUGUST, WITH DISCUSSIONS SLATED TO FOCUS ON ECONOMIC MATTERS.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
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**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, VISITS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
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**TAGS:** PINT, PGOV, BL, (BANZER SUAREZ, HUGO)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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